

**HAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM  
MARCH 12, 2007 – 7:00 PM**

**PRESENT:** Virginia Bridle-Russell, Chairman  
Ben Moore, Vice-Chairman  
Rick Griffin  
James Workman  
Bill Lally  
Fred Welch, Town Manager  
Maureen Duffy, Administrative Assistant

**REGRETS:**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**ACCEPTANCE OF SUMMERWOOD DRIVE RSA 674:40-A,III**

No comments

**Chairman Virginia Bridle-Russell called the meeting to order at 7:05PM.**

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

**I. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

Chairman Bridle-Russell reminded residents that tomorrow (March 13<sup>th</sup>) is the Town vote. The polls open at 7AM and close at 8PM at Marston School. She urged all townspeople to vote and noted that people may register that day.

Mrs. Bridle-Russell went on to thank Budget Committee Chairman Mary-Louise Woolsey and School Board Chairman Sandy Nickerson for reaching a compromise and coming to an agreement in regard to the use of the Board of Selectmen meeting room on March 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **II. APPOINTMENTS**

### **1. ASSESSOR BOB ESTEY – ABATEMENTS**

Assessor Bob Estey came before the Board seeking acceptance of the following abatements:

- 24 Regular Abatements totaling \$28,936.36

**Mr. Lally MOTIONED** to approve the regular abatement as presented. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

- 362 Sewer Abatements – Totaling \$77,760.98

**Mr. Moore MOTIONED** to approve the sewer abatements as presented. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

- Yield Tax (Excavation Tax) totaling \$1,232.62

**Mr. Griffin MOTIONED** to accept the Yield Tax as presented. **Mr. Moore SECONDED.**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

Notice of the sewer abatement deadline is written on the back of the tax bill. Mr. Estey noted that he has denied approximately 8 to 10 people for filing after the deadline (March 1). Tonight property owner Daniel Baril has requested an appointment with the Board of Selectmen to request consideration for the sewer abatement.

Mr. Baril purchased his current home a few months ago and has never gone through the sewer abatement process before. He has been traveling extensively and he simply forgot to file. He does not understand why abatements have to be filed and believes that the Town should know who is tied into the sewer system or not.

Mr. Estey noted that the sewer abatement deadline is an issue every year. The Supreme Court determined that every taxpayer in the Town of Hampton shall pay for the sewer whether they have it or not. The Selectmen at that time developed an abatement system in order to create a credit back to property owners who are not tied into the sewer system.

Mr. Lally asked if the Assessing Department would be able to maintain a list ensuring that no one misses the deadline. Mr. Estey noted that if the Selectmen would like to place the onus on the Department they need to realize that many people do not apply for the abatement and that total amount reimbursed would be approximately \$125,000 to \$135,000. The current State laws imply that property owners must apply for the abatement. Mr. Baril asked why the Town cannot flag each house. Mr. Estey mentioned that the Department does not have a mechanism to do so.

**Mr. Moore MOTIONED** to deny Mr. Baril (property owner of 18 Great Gate) special sewer abatement request. **Mr. Workman SECONDED.**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

Mr. Baril would like to see the Town consider a more equitable method of dealing with sewer abatements.

Mr. Lally asked how difficult it would be to keep a list of people who received the abatement from past years and then when there are new ones they may add them to the list. Mr. Estey said that the abatement process is the only legal way of dealing with the situation. The sewer system in Hampton changes every year and sometimes sewers are put in and the Assessing Department is unaware. Mr. Estey believes that the abatement system is the best way to deal with the issue. Mr. Lally would like the Department to consider the idea of keeping a list to reduce workload as well as prevent any issues with late filing.

It was noted that if a data collector was hired; more information about Hampton properties could be collected resulting in more accurate assessments.

## **2. DANIEL BARIL – LATE SPECIAL SEWER ABATEMENT REQUEST FORM**

Daniel Baril joined Mr. Estey during his presentation.

## **III. MINUTES – MARCH 5, 2007**

The March 5, 2007 minutes stand as read.

## **IV. OLD BUSINESS**

### **1. INTERIM TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

Public Works has indicated that Summerwood Drive meets required road standards.

**Mr. Lally MOTIONED** to accept Summerwood Drive under RSA 674:40-a, III. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

Mr. Gearreald thanked Hampton employees, and especially the Department Heads, for all they have done to keep Town government moving forward during the search for selection of a new Town Manager. He believes that the team performed magnificently in the last 7 months since Mr. Barrington's departure. Mr. Gearreald thanked Finance Director Mike Schwotzer, Administrative Assistant Maureen Duffy and Legal Assistant Wanda Robertson for all their help during the time period that he was performing two jobs.

The staff welcomed new Manager Fred Welch at a Tuesday lunch meeting, after which they met to brief him on pending issues. The staff was briefed on their role in developing sections of the Guide to Hampton, and Dyana Martin presented for staff review a draft outline of various maintenance functions that are split among the Recreation, Public Works and Fire Departments. This outline was requested by the Board of Selectmen earlier this year and will be shared with the Board as soon as it is finalized.

Jay Diener and Maureen Duffy met on Wednesday with Doc Noel of the Chamber of Commerce and John Kane of the Beach Village Precinct to enlist their organizations' participation in developing the Guide to Hampton. Both were enthusiastic about the Guide's possibilities, and as further details on cost become known, they will consider joining the Town in sharing expenses for producing this Guide.

Public Works Director, Finance Director and engineers from Fay, Spofford & Thorndike met representatives of Zoppo Construction on Thursday to attempt to resolve outstanding close up issues on the Beach Infrastructure project. Great progress was made in resolving disputed issues.

On Wednesday, March 14, 2007 the Town hall is scheduled to have panic alarm buttons installed in the various departments and additional security training is being planned by our Police Department.

With last Friday's snow and rain storm, the fair hearing of one of our Welfare Officer's decisions was put off until this Friday, March 9, 2007. Tom Gillick volunteered to serve as Fair Hearing Officer.

Mr. Gearreald is looking forward to resuming his role as the Town Attorney after an eight day vacation. He thanked the Selectmen for allowing him to serve as the Interim Town Manager. The position was challenging as the complex problems that Hampton faces daily. In conclusion he welcomed Mr. Welch to the fray.

Mr. Gearreald also mentioned that there is a need for a nonpublic meeting under RSA 91A:3,II-(a) to meet directly after tonight's meeting.

**Mr. Moore MOTIONED** to have a nonpublic session regarding personnel under RSA 91A:3,II-(a) immediately following tonight's Selectmen's meeting. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**

**VOTE: Role call  
UNANIMOUS FOR**

### **BOARD'S RESPONSE TO THE MANAGER'S REPORT**

The Board thanked Mr. Gearreald for acting as Interim Town Manager for the last seven months.

### **OLD BUSINESS CONTINUED**

Mr. Griffin said that he has received permission from the Police Chief and the Cable Committee to broadcast Beach Precinct meetings. The consensus of the Board was for Mr. Griffin to communicate with the Precinct that the meetings will be broadcast.

## **V. NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. WELCOMING OF NEW TOWN MANAGER FRED WELCH**

The Hampton Board of Selectmen are pleased to announce their appointment of Frederick W. Welch as the next Town Manager of Hampton. Mr. Welch has over 20 years of experience in municipal management in New

Hampshire and has served for the last four years as the Town Manager of Seabrook. While in Seabrook, Mr. Welch has been instrumental in obtaining multiple grants and in achieving substantially increased activity in economic development. He has established the State's first asset management and reporting auditing program for a Town.

His municipal background also includes services as a Selectmen in the Town of Hill, New Hampshire and three years working with the Budget Committee. He also has had wide experience in New Hampshire State government working on numerous committees and commissions appointed by the Governor and others, and he has acted as a lobbyist. Mr. Welch has also worked as a Public Works Director and has served in executive positions with several nonprofit organizations.

The Selectmen conducted their Town Manager search over a six month period with the capable assistance of the Local Government Center, which advertised in national as well as regional and local publications. Over 50 resumes were received, and 11 interviews were conducted. While an administrative panel provided input to the Selectmen during initial interviews, final interviews and the selection decision were made by the Selectmen alone.

Each Selectmen welcomed Mr. Welch to his new position as Town Manager that he started today, March 12, 2007.

Chairman Bridle-Russell presented Mr. Griffin with a clock in recognition of completion of his term as Selectmen.

## **2. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION OF FINANCIAL ISSUES BEACH INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT**

Not discussed.

## **VI. CONSENT AGENDA**

- 1. Signing of Warrant**
- 2. Rockingham County Nursing House Request**
- 3. License for Coin Operated Amusement Devices**

**Mr. Griffin MOTIONED** to approve the consent agenda as presented. **Mr. Moore SECONDED.**  
**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

## **VII PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ann Kaiser (7 Palmer Street) came before the Board to discuss the history of sewer abatements. According to Mrs. Kaiser in 1981 the Selectmen decided to provide a credit to all property owners who did not have sewer available to them but if the sewer line went by your house and property owners did not hookup they were not eligible for this credit. The federal funding used to build the waste water treatment plant which gave him the opportunity to do this. In 1987 there was an error on the tax bills and that is when the State discovered Hampton was providing a credit and that it was not considered legal.

Ed MacDonald (25 Epping Avenue) asked about the Approval of Resolution of Financial Issues Beach Infrastructure Project as indicated on the agenda. Chairman Bridle-Russell is hopeful that in the next couple of weeks the matter will be dealt with.

Chairman Bridle-Russell mentioned that Hampton resident Darold Mosher suggested that there should be more publicity or press for personnel who are promoted.

**VIII. CLOSING COMMENTS:**

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr. Griffin MOTIONED** to adjourn at 7:55 PM to a nonpublic session. **Mr. Moore SECONDED.**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

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**Chairman**